

REMARKS

Claims 46-76 are pending in this application. Applicants respectfully request entry of this remarks at this time.

DOUBLE PATENTING REJECTION

During a phone conversation with Applicants' representatives, the Examiner explained that the withdrawal from issue and the reopening of prosecution stemmed from an overlooked obviousness-type double patenting rejection. In particular, the Examiner stated that the claims were now rejected as obvious over the claims of U.S. Patent No. 6,132,324. Applicants object to this rejection to the extent that it does not appear anywhere on the record and request that the rejection be stated in a written communication to Applicants. In an effort to expedite allowance of the pending claims, however, Applicants submit herewith a Terminal Disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c). As such, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the double patenting rejection.

CONCLUSION

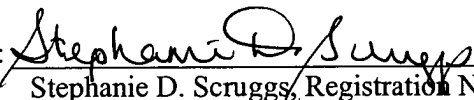
Applicants believe that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that this response does not resolve all of the issues regarding patentability of the pending claims, Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned attorneys to discuss any remaining issues.

Applicants submit herewith the requisite fee for the Terminal Disclaimer. No other fees are believed to be due at this time. Should any fee be required, however, please charge such fee to Swidler Berlin LLP Deposit Account No. 195127, Order No. 20002.0052.

Respectfully submitted,
SWIDLER BERLIN LLP

Dated: January 4, 2006

By:


Stephanie D. Scruggs, Registration No. 54,432
SWIDLER BERLIN LLP
3000 K Street, NW, Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20007
(202) 424-7755 Telephone
(202) 295-8478 Facsimile